



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**1. Am I eligible to participate?**

If you are a high school student (grades 9-12) as of January 2012, and live in one of the following counties, you are eligible: Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Llano, Lee, Travis and Williamson.

**2. Do I have to attend a public school in order to participate?**

No, any (public, private, or home-schooled) high school student who lives in one of the Texas counties listed above is eligible to participate.

**3. What is the deadline to submit my video entry?**

April 2, 2012 is the deadline to enter. All three steps below must be done by that time in order to be judged.

**4. What are the steps to enter the contest?**

1. Create a video.

2. Upload the video to [youtube.com](http://youtube.com).

3. Print an entry form available at <http://www.glo.texas.gov/adopt-a-beach/psa-contest/index.html>. Complete the form and include the student and parent and/or legal guardian's signatures, and provide the link on YouTube, scan the completed form, and email the form to [beach@glo.texas.gov](mailto:beach@glo.texas.gov) as an attachment.

**5. Can I mail the completed entry form instead of sending it by email?**

Yes, however the link to the YouTube video must be written and legible on the form.

**6. What is the message I should convey in the PSA?**

Entries should be based on the theme: "Trash Travels ... trash in your hometown not properly disposed of can make its way to the Texas coast. Help us make a difference for cleaner shores in Texas."

According to The Ocean Conservancy, land-based sources contribute 70% of all trash found in the ocean and on our Texas beaches. The largest source is trash washed off streets into storm drains that empty directly into streams, rivers, and bays. Each time it rains, runoff from the street picks up litter and other pollutants, which eventually make their way down to the Texas coast. Other land-based sources are items that are left behind by beach goers. Commercial fishing vessels, recreational boats, cargo vessels, and offshore petroleum rigs are just some of the ocean-based sources of marine debris. The various plastic wastes from these sources are among the most pervasive and threatening forms of debris found in our oceans.

**7. Does my video have to be a specific length?**

Yes, the video must be EXACTLY 30 seconds long.

**8. Do I have to use any official artwork in my PSA?**

Yes, you must use the Adopt-A-Beach logo. It should be large enough and on the screen long enough to be identified easily. Do not modify the logo in any way. You can download the logo at <http://www.glo.texas.gov/adopt-a-beach/psa-contest/index.html>.

**9. Can I use music off a CD or from a download from iTunes?**

Probably not. PSAs containing unauthorized copyrighted music, words, logos, photos, or video clips will automatically be disqualified from the contest. Basically, if you don't think you have the right to use a piece of music, you probably don't, and you shouldn't use it.

**10. Can my entry be in HD?**

Yes, it can be High Definition or Standard Definition. The video can be either the 4x3 or 16x9 aspect ratio. When uploading to [youtube.com](http://youtube.com), take care to follow the uploading tips that YouTube provides, so that your video remains at the best quality possible.

**11. How can I confirm that my entry has been received?**

You should confirm that your video has successfully uploaded to YouTube.

**12. When do I find out if I won?**

Winners will be announced in mid-April. All winners will be notified by the Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Program.

**13. What criteria will the entries be judged on?**

Entries will be judged on the effectiveness of the message, creativity, educational aspects and uniqueness. Technical quality will also be a consideration—we are looking for “broadcast” quality entries.

**14. How many winners are there?**

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

**15. Can I enter more than once?**

No. One entry per student or student group.

**16. If I have questions, who do I ask?**

Contact the Adopt-A-Beach Program at [beach@glo.texas.gov](mailto:beach@glo.texas.gov)

